

Grants to Prevent Air Pollution from Heavy-Duty Vehicles



The TCEQ's Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Program will soon kick off a new round of grants and rebates to upgrade or replace older heavy-duty vehicles and equipment, which can reduce harmful emissions.

TERP funds are available to individuals, businesses, nonprofits, school districts, and government agencies that own and operate heavy-duty

vehicles or equipment in eligible areas: Dallas-Fort Worth, Tyler-Longview, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Austin, and San Antonio.

The TCEQ will soon be accepting applications for approximately \$137 million that will be available for distribution in early 2008.

For more information and the opening date of the next round of grants, go to www.terpgrants.org, or call 800-919-TERP (8377).

Look for Clean Taxis in Texas

Many taxi companies are looking at ways to make their fleets more fuel efficient and hybrid-electric vehicles are one option. By choosing hybrids, taxi companies can help contribute to clean air in the cities they serve and spend less money on fuel.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that the average taxi will travel 60,000-80,000 miles a year. With this level of mileage, taxi operators can make great strides in reducing emissions by switching to hybrid-electric taxis. San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas have hybrid taxis on the road (joining New York City and San Francisco).

To help make hybrid taxis a reality for more Texas cities, the TCEQ's Green & Go Clean Taxi Partnership promotes their use in the state's larger cities. The Green & Go Partnership works to increase public awareness of hybrid-electric vehicles as a cleaner alternative and assists in eliminating roadblocks to getting hybrids incorporated into taxi fleets.

The TCEQ is working with local governments and other stakeholders to provide outreach and technical assistance to taxi companies and operators looking to improve fleet



efficiency. This can be accomplished by switching out older, less-efficient vehicles with newer, more-efficient, and lower-emitting hybrid-electric vehicles. Other related efforts encourage businesses and passengers to request hybrid taxis as more of them arrive on the roads of Texas.

Look for the Green & Go logo the next time you're hailing a taxi in Texas. There may not be many on the road now, but over the next several years, hybrid taxis (and the Green & Go logo) will become a more common sight.

Seeking Input on Household Hazardous Waste Rule

Household hazardous waste (or HHW) is municipal solid waste that has the characteristics of hazardous waste, which includes some household cleaners; some solvents and automotive products; some paints; some batteries, such as NiCad, lead/acid, and lithium; and other household products.



While you can legally dispose of most HHW through your normal trash collections, some communities offer better disposal options such as disposing of it and related waste at permanent HHW collection sites or at one-day collection events. Additionally, many of the programs also offer products still in usable condition to the public (because use of the product for its intended purpose is often the best option). Also, some communities include public education programs on safer alternatives to hazardous products, as well as other ways to reduce the amount of wastes you generate.

To ensure that HHW collections are conducted safely, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has rules governing these activities. Currently, the rules are being revised and the agency welcomes any input on the proposal during the 30-day public comment period, which begins when the notice is published in the Texas Register.

To get information on the rules, the proposal, and HHW programs in Texas, contact Joseph Thomas at 512-239-0012 or jthomas@tceq.state.tx.us, or at www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/nav/household_chem_waste.html.

EPA Offers “Care” Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that approximately \$3 million will be available in 2008 to support community-based partnerships that work to reduce pollution at the local level. These grants are awarded by EPA’s Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.

Applications for the CARE grants are due March 17, 2008. Eligible applicants include county and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, and universities. Prospective applicants can ask questions about the application process during three conference calls the EPA will conduct. Conference calls are scheduled for January 18, February 11, and February 27.

The EPA anticipates awarding CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I cooperative agreements range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships; have identified priorities for toxic risks in the community; and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities, and become self-sustaining.

In 2007, more than \$3 million was awarded to more than 20 communities.

Information about the CARE program, applying for the 2008 grants, and recipients of previous cooperative agreements is available at EPA’s Web site at www.epa.gov/care.

Updated TCEQ Publications

Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review, 2006 Data Summary and Analysis, (AS-187/07) analyzes data submitted by municipal solid waste facilities each fiscal year to determine trends in the amounts and types of waste disposed of in Texas.

Let’s Tackle the Grease in this Kitchen poster (GI-290) illustrates the dos and don’ts of handling grease in any kitchen and points out ways to prevent grease from blocking sewer lines.

Get Money to Upgrade or Replace Your Truck or Equipment—and Clear the Air! (GI-280) is a booklet for citizens and businesses about new

financial incentives for buying low-emission vehicles. It explains how to upgrade or replace your older heavy-duty vehicles (including school buses), non-road equipment, locomotives, marine vessels, and stationary equipment.

To view any of these publications, go to TCEQ’s Publications Catalog at www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications and enter the number of the publication in the Publication Number box. To order a copy, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/order.html



Take Care of Texas Tip

Cook Efficiently

Texans can help reduce energy consumption and air emissions by making sure that their pots and pans are not smaller in diameter than their stove’s burners. A 6-inch pot on an 8-inch burner wastes over 40% of the burner’s heat, as well as the energy it takes to produce that heat.



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